



BY THE NUMBERS

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Democrats' Numbers Don't Add Up

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- < Recent press accounts have commented on our ability to protect the Social Security surplus. Unfortunately, these accounts contain a number of factual inaccuracies. Here are the facts.
 - There is no new "official scorekeeping" estimate from CBO.
 - What CBO has released is a response to a specific set of assumptions from the Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees.
 - Those assumptions are hypothetical, arbitrary, and in several instances have no basis in fact – and they represent a much different set of standards from what CBO has applied even to the President's budget.
 - In one such instance, CBO was requested to change what constitutes the "on-budget" (non-Social Security) surplus to make spending numbers appear larger than they actually are.
- < Without these requirements, all of the other assumptions CBO was required to make – including our tax cut and proposed emergency spending – would have been accommodated within the \$14-billion non-Social Security surplus that CBO *has* officially projected for fiscal year 2000.